

R E M A R K S

The office action of March 24, 2004 has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is requested. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 remain in this case, claims 1 and 8 being amended, and claims 2 and 9 being cancelled by this response. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 and claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9. No new matter has been added.

The numbered paragraphs below correspond to the numbered paragraphs in the Office Action.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

2. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson (6,250,265).

Regarding claim 1, claim 2 has now been incorporated into claim 1. According to the Examiner, claim 2 is allowable. Therefore, amended claim 1 should now be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7, being dependent upon and further limiting claim 1, should also be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations it contains. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

4. Claims 3-5, 8, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson in view of Koda (6,129,060).

Regarding claim 1, upon which claims 3-5 depend, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 3-5, being dependent upon and further limiting independent claim 1, should also be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-5 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 8, claim 9 has now been incorporated into claim 8. According to the Examiner, claim 9 is allowable. Therefore, amended claim 8 should now be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12, being dependent upon and further limiting independent claim 8, should also be allowable for that reason, as well as for the recitations they contain. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

5. Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson in view of Koda and further in view of Butterfield et al. (5,172,659).

Claim 1, upon which claim 6 depends, should now be allowable. Claim 6, being dependent upon and further limiting claim 1, should also be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations it contains. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8, upon which claim 13 depends, should now be allowable. Claim 13, being dependent upon and further limiting claim 8, should also be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations it contains. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 2 and 9, such action has been taken, and claims 1 and 8 should now be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with

Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

"Recognizing that Internet communications are not secured, I hereby authorize the PTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

Respectfully Submitted:

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